

Maine



Spring

Technology

A publication featuring the Information Services technology of Maine State Government

Looking for Public Land

By TIM GLIDDEN

The Land for Maine's Future (LMF) Program (www.maine.gov/spo/lmf) was created in 1987 in response to concerns over the loss of critical natural areas and wildlife habitat, along with traditional access to undeveloped lands for hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation. To date, the Program has protected over 192,000 acres of Maine's best natural areas. It also seeks to protect farmlands through the purchase of development rights, and public access to water for fishing, boating, and commercial marine activities.

With public access to these wonderful areas such an essential part of the program, LMF has wrestled with how best to inform Maine citizens and visitors of the location of the properties. In addition, providing advice to visitors on the suitable uses of these lands is important to ensure good stewardship.

LMF had added a feature to its website in 1999 as the Legislature and public were considering the most recent land conservation bond. A map of the state located the individual LMF projects and a list of projects in the margin provided links to more detailed descriptions of each site.

However, the map itself was not interactive, the list became unwieldy as the number of projects mounted, few pictures were included, and the individual project descriptions provided no links to additional information. In short the program had outgrown the limitations of this format.

Thanks to the generous support of L.L. Bean (www.llbean.com) and the assistance of the Maine Chapter of the Nature Conservancy (<http://nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/maine/>), it is now possible to browse, search, and list a comprehensive database of LMF funded land conservation projects.



Rangeley Region: http://www.state.me.us/spo/lmf/projects/project_detail.php?project=1564

To remedy this situation, LMF recently undertook a comprehensive overhaul of its website including this "project directory" feature. Thanks to the generous support of L.L. Bean (www.llbean.com) and the assistance of the Maine Chapter of the Nature Conservancy (<http://nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/maine/>), it is now possible to browse, search, and list a comprehensive database of LMF funded land conservation projects. A search engine and interactive locator map allow searches by region and keyword. Each project description includes driving directions, a list of appropriate uses (indicated by widely recognized, standard icons) and a short description of the project and the history of its conservation. Where appropriate, links are provided to additional information which may include

- continued on page 2 -

Bath puts Parcel Maps on the Internet

By DAVE MCKITTRICK, DeLORME

Nearly everyone has made the trek to city hall to find information regarding their own property or other local properties. This type of data, although readily available, often requires a significant effort to access. Recognizing the importance of data accessibility, municipalities throughout the country are turning to the Web to deliver information to their citizens.

Assessors and tax officials, needing to meet their constituents' needs, as well as comply with state and federal mapping and data initiatives, have found the Web to be an efficient and effective way to share property data. Planners, wanting input from local citizens on zoning updates, are able to offer instant access to their proposals. Emergency officials can provide critical information and immediate updates in the event of a crisis. One result of this burgeoning technology is that many more citizens have the ability to become active in the decision-making processes within their locality.

A key component of such web-based endeavors is providing access to accurate maps and spatial data.

- continued on page 2 -

IN THIS ISSUE:

Looking For Public Land	1
Bath Puts Parcel Maps on the Internet	1
Maine.gov Launches New Google Search Engine	3
Educating Estonian Engineers	3
From Our Readers	4
Well, I'll Be "DEM"ed!	4
Commute Another Way Day	5
Project GATE - Growing America Through Entrepreneurship ..	5
Appleton Website - First of its Kind	6
Challenge	6
Promoting Public Safety	7
Laptops Double as Telephones	8

Looking For Public Land, cont.

site maps and access to the agencies and organizations actually owning the properties.

Another important benefit of this new system to the LMF staff is the ease with which they can now maintain LMF Project Center content. The new LMF Project Center, designed and developed by Digital Goat Consulting Services (www.digitalgoat.net), is driven by a web-enabled database which facilitates site maintenance enormously. Under the old site design, updates required redesign of the locator map every time a project was added and HTML programming was required to actually add the content. With the new system, projects are easily added to the web site using a web-based administrative screen. After signing into a secured administrative area, content and photos can be added to the web site without requiring any programming skills. Text, pictures, icons, and locator maps can all be added using automated tools. The new information is stored in the web site's database and automatically appears in the project directory, search results, and regional map without any additional administrative work.

As summer approaches, take a moment to check out the new features of LMF's website and plan an expedition to one of Maine's most treasured natural areas!

For more information on the Land for Maine Future's Program and land conservation in Maine, call Tim Glidden at LMF: 207-287-1487 or email him at tim.glidden@maine.gov. Tim has been the LMF Director for just over two years. Before coming to LMF, he worked at the Natural Resources Council of Maine, the state's leading environmental advocacy group. He worked for 11 years at the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis at Maine's Legislature where he was the Principle Analyst for natural resource issues. Tim has a masters in forestry sciences and has worked in natural resource policy in Maine and New England for thirty years.

Bath puts Parcel Maps on the Internet, cont.

For many communities, however, web-based mapping has been beyond their means for technical and financial reasons.

DeLorme, the Yarmouth based leader in affordable GIS (Geographic Information System) and GPS (Global Positioning System) mapping solutions, has developed software that fits the budgetary and technical constraints of municipalities of every size. Offering interactive access to maps through a dedicated site hosted by DeLorme, XMap Web 3.0 makes web mapping simple. The beauty of the XMap system is that it enables the site to be locally managed through the use of XMap/GIS Editor, a desktop mapping and spatial data suite that puts the power of GIS and GPS within everyone's reach. Tools within XMap/GIS Editor allow the administrator to control the publishing and updating of map data to alter the look and feel of the maps and even to build custom data searches.

The City of Bath, in Maine's mid-coast region, has adopted XMap for their web mapping service. Paul Mateosian, the city Assessor, initially used XMap/GIS Editor to integrate the city's parcel boundaries with the tax database. This information he overlaid on DeLorme's high-resolution TopoBird aerial imagery. "Having the TopoBird imagery as a backdrop definitely adds to the impact" said Mr. Mateosian.

After building a number of queries to offer immediate access to specific parcel data, the parcel map was published to Bath's XMap Web site (<http://xmapweb.delorme.com/SABath/XMap.asp>). Mr. Mateosian took the further step of creating a link from Bath's on-line assessor's database search engine to XMap Web. Each property search result includes a link that opens XMap Web centered on that particular parcel.

Mr. Mateosian's use of XMap isn't limited to on-line map administra-

tion. "Using XMap/GIS Editor on my laptop, I created a query to select all the parcels that had sold in the last two years. These I chose to display with a red outline. With the DeLorme Earthmate GPS receiver as my guide, I was able to efficiently travel to the locations and review the sales while following my progress on the TopoBird image. Truly remarkable!"

Bath is currently exploring the applicability of XMap for its law enforcement, fire and safety and public works departments. "Flexibility and simplicity are the key," said Mr. Mateosian, "I see XMap being put to use for a lot of our mapping projects"

The Bath GIS Web site will provide:

- Assessment tools for a more accurate and efficient property valuation process,
- Real estate and appraiser tools for quick and easy remote access to property information and location views,
- Additional Web GIS layers for various municipal departments, and
- Easy access to parcel data and maps for land owners and the Bath community.

Questions? Call DeLorme Professional Sales at 1-800-293-2389 or visit <http://www.delorme.com/professional>.

About DeLorme: Located in Yarmouth, DeLorme has over 25 years of cartographic and software experience and over 125 employees dedicated to creating the best in mapping GIS and GPS products. Digital products are rooted in the DeLorme XMap development platform, which is scalable for future growth and endorsed by millions of dedicated digital mapping software users worldwide. DeLorme is investing in innovative technologies that generate affordable and easy-to-use navigation and mapping products.



Found on the Web


Radio Your Way (pogoproducts.com) enables users to set a timer or record real-time AM/FM radio as well as listen to their favorite shows at convenient times and locations of their choice. Recording is as simple as pressing a button to record a particular broadcast totally unattended or set it up to record daily or weekly programs. Recently Radio Your Way was honored by PC World with a 2004 Next Gear Innovations Award as the only available handheld digital AM/FM radio recorder.

Maine.gov Launches New Google Search Engine

In response to user requests for more efficient search capabilities, www.Maine.gov launched a new and improved search engine powered by Google on April 6, 2004.

"Maine is helping to lead the way with its award-winning eGovernment portal and services," said Dick Thompson, Maine Chief Information Officer. "The Google upgrade is another example of the state's commitment to provide the public with superior electronic service." Visitors to the official state portal can now use the same technology as the Web's leading search engine (www.Google.com) to search [Maine.gov](http://www.Maine.gov)'s 90,000+ pages of content, which may be accessed from www.Maine.gov.

"With the tremendous amount of information available on [Maine.gov](http://www.Maine.gov), a new search engine was necessary to meet the needs of the citizens and businesses who interact with state government via the Web," said Carrie Gott, General Manager of [Maine.gov](http://www.Maine.gov). "This is the perfect opportunity to offer a superior search solution for Maine's best-in-class portal." Google factors in more than 100 variables for each search query, producing accurate results in less than one second. New features on [Maine.gov](http://www.Maine.gov)'s upgraded search engine include automatic spell check, cached pages, sorting options, and advanced Boolean searches.

Maine operates one of the nation's most successful Web sites and has been ranked among the top four state eGovernment portals in the annual Best of the Web competition for the last four years. [Maine.gov](http://www.Maine.gov) attracted approximately 7.5 million page hits per month in 2003. More than 300 government services are currently available online, including vehicle registration renewals, vanity plate availability checks, annual report filings, and fishing license requests. 

Educating Estonian Engineers

By COLLEEN GESUALDO

On March 22, 2004 the Maine Department of Transportation (Maine DOT) welcomed two engineers from the country of Estonia¹ for a three day Pontis bridge management software training session taught by instructors from the National Highway Institute. Mr. Eduard Rae and Mr. Veiko Tikas were escorted to the Maine DOT facility by Raj Ailaney, P.E. of Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Jim Foster, P.E. of Maine DOT.

Our Estonian visitors listened intently to an excellent presentation of the Pontis software's capabilities by Larry O'Donnell of FHWA. Pontis incorporates deterioration models for each element comprising a structure with deterioration rates for each possible environment. The software applies these deterioration rates to predict what will happen to bridge components over time. The present planning horizon is 99 years into the future. Cost models for each element contained in Pontis then generate a cost for the types of improvements required for each element. Pontis performs a benefit/cost analysis in order to select the repairs that are most cost effective. Users may also use simulation rules to allow Pontis to model the way an agency typically prioritizes various structural improvements.


In the afternoon, the first hands-on Pontis training session commenced in Maine DOT's training room. Occasionally, the features of the Pontis software particularly sparked the Estonians' interest, for they reverted to their native language and engaged in enthusiastic discussion. Following Monday's training session, Jim Foster who is Maine's Bridge Management Engineer, took Mr. Rae and Mr. Tikas to the construction site of one of Maine's extraordinary bridges – the Third Bridge in Augusta. The project manager greeted the Estonians and answered their questions about Maine's construction process.

On Tuesday, Pontis training occupied the day, interrupted by a brief visit from Maine DOT's chief engineer John Dority. During a break, Mr. Dority personally welcomed the international visitors. He spoke for all when he said the exchange between Maine DOT staff and our international guests is always welcome and enriching professionally. That



<http://aashtoware.camsys.com/index.htm>

evening Maine DOT Assistant Bridge Maintenance Engineer and other staff dined with the Estonians and exchanged information on current bridge maintenance practices.

Wednesday, March 24 was the final day of the Pontis training. National Highway Institute instructors Larry O'Donnell and Tom Everett administered a final set of exercises to test participants understanding of the software. In the late afternoon Maine DOT staff escorted the Estonian visitors to the airport. Overall, the visit was viewed positively by our staff. More than one of our engineers expressed regret that we did not have more time to spend with the Estonians. We are hopeful that the Pontis training met their expectations, and that their implementation of the bridge management software will be a great success in Estonia. 

Colleen Gesualdo is a Transportation Planning Analyst for the Maine DOT'S Bridge Management Section. Colleen is a former employee of the Bureau of Information Services. She may be reached at (207) 624-3636 or by e-mail at Colleen.Gesualdo@Maine.gov.

¹ Estonia lies along the Baltic Sea, just below Finland. Tallinn, Estonia's capital city is only about 40 miles south of Helsinki, across the Gulf of Finland. Sweden is Estonia's western neighbor across the Baltic. Russia is to the east, with St. Petersburg just across the north-eastern border. To the south is Latvia with its capital city Riga. <http://www.visitestonia.com/>

FROM OUR READERS:

John Domina of Nevada's Department of Transportation e-mails the Editorial Board and Russ Charette, after spotting Russ' April 2003 article on the web: http://www.state.me.us/newsletter/april2003/511_northern_new_england_travel.htm.

Sent: Monday, March 22, 2004 1:51 PM

To: 'russ.charette@state.me.us'; 'neb.newsletter@state.me.us'

Subject: ATIS Websites

Hello.....Nevada is planning to implement an Advanced Travelers Information System within the State, starting with a public web-site. We want to obtain information from other states on the processes pursued to develop and implement ATIS web-sites. If you have an ATIS website, would you please provide us information on how this was set up and the capabilities/services provided to the traveler. Thanks.

John Domina,
Nevada DOT

Later that day, Russ replies ...

John,

Maine is a Condition Acquisition and Reporting State (CARS), and as such our website generally follows the same format as most of the other CARS states.

Current CARS states include:

Maine <http://www.511Maine.Gov> or <http://www.511Me.org>

New Hampshire <http://www.511NH.org>

Vermont <http://www.511vt.org>

Iowa <http://www.511ia.org>

New Mexico Not yet active

Minnesota <http://www.511mn.org>

Alaska <http://511.alaska.gov>

Kentucky <http://www.511.ky.gov>

States that have recently joined the CARS consortium that may, or may not, use the same website format are New York, Florida, and Rhode Island.

The information on the website is provided using the CARS software (Collectively owned by the CARS states). You can see the content provided on the website. As you can see by visiting the websites, many of the states (or at least the TRIO ME, NH, VT) generally use the same format in providing content.

The same content (generally) is also sent out on our 511 Interactive Voice Response System. The IVR system uses different parameters to control what goes out on it. The website is more robust in terms of content, but all of it, website content and 511 IVR content is derived from the CARS system. Maine also provides "Posted Roads" information on our system. Many roads have weight limits "posted" to them in the spring of the year. We have over 400 different postings currently on the system. Select the Commercial Vehicle tab on the website to view the posted roads. You'll have to select a sub-regional map to view icons.

Please let me know if you have any other questions.
Russell D. Charette, P.E.

511 Project Manager

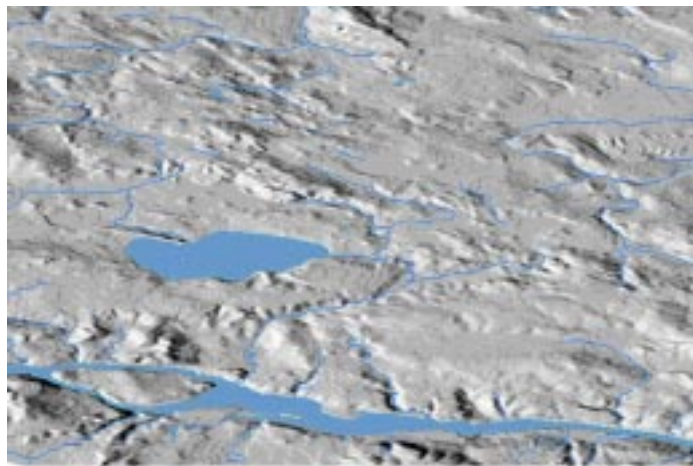
Manager, Planning Development & Engineering Division
Office of Passenger Transportation

E-Mail: Russ.Charette@Maine.Gov

Well, I'll Be "DEM"ed!

By LARRY HARWOOD

The Maine Office of Geographic Information Systems (MEGIS) has begun receiving new high resolution digital elevation models (DEM) from the US Geological Survey. DEMs can be used in the generation of three-dimensional graphics that display terrain, slope and aspect. This makes for more realistic and attractive maps and on-screen images by showing the earth's surface as it actually would appear from a given height.



This graphic shows generated relief in the Standish area. The large water body in the center-left is Bonny Eagle Pond.

These images are often described as what you would see looking out the window of an airplane and are what graphics programs can use to "fly" over and around a virtual landscape. The angle and azimuth¹ of the "virtual sun" can be altered to mimic what the terrain would look like at different times of the day.

DEMs also have applications less graphic but quite useful. They are used in creating orthoimagery or aerial photographic images with the geometric qualities of a map. GIS technicians can use DEMs to model general patterns of drainage, map soil erosion and landslide hazards or calculate the area of proposed reservoirs. Because of these applications, DEMs are sometimes referred to as "gravity data". They can also be used to model the propagation of radio waves to help site cell phone towers and do visibility analyses or "viewsheds".

DEMs are digital files consisting of points of elevations, sampled systematically at equal intervals. GIS software converts DEMs into a raster layer. Rasters represent geographic features by dividing the world into discrete squares called cells. Cells, in this case 10 meters square, are laid out in a grid where each cell has a location relative to an origin and a value for elevation in feet. The fact that locations are arranged regularly permits the GIS software to infer associations among locations.

Questions? For more information, contact: Larry Harwood by e-mailing larry.harwood@maine.gov.

¹ Azimuth is the direction, in "Degree" degrees, referenced to true "North" north. ... In "Aviation" aviation azimuth is used to determine headings or the direction in which to fly. The angular distance is measured in a clockwise direction.





Commute
Another
Way
Day '04

COMMUTE ANOTHER WAY DAY

Commute Another Way Day is Maine's annual employer-based transportation event that promotes carpools, vanpools, public transit (bus, ferry and rail where available), bicycling, and walking - as cost-effective, healthy and enjoyable alternatives to driving alone to work. All Maine employers and their employees are invited to participate. Last year, more than 500 businesses and 5,000 commuters got involved statewide, and helped to reduce traffic congestion and auto emissions by eliminating 6,000 auto-trips, 62,000 auto-miles, 1.65 tons of pollution, and \$32,000 in commuting costs...in a single day!

This year, **Commute Another Way Day** will be held on Wednesday, June 9, 2004. Mark your calendars, and visit <http://www.gomaine.org/cawday/index.html> for additional information.



Project GATE

Helping Maine Grow Through Entrepreneurship

U.S. Secretary of Labor, Elaine L. Chao, has initiated Project GATE (Growing America Through Entrepreneurship), a program designed to give individuals interested in self-employment the training and support needed to start and/or expand a small business.

The U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration have teamed up with the Small Business Administration to create an exciting new program to help people create and expand small businesses. New businesses create jobs, improve our community and expand the U.S. economy. Project GATE — Growing America Through Entrepreneurship — has been designed to help people like you who are interested in starting or expanding a business.

Maine was one of three states chosen to participate in a multiyear study by the federal government to determine if the value of assistance programs are worth their cost. Being the only rural state involved in the project, marketing is a unique challenge compared to the other states involved. Project GATE is operating in Maine (Lewiston, Portland and Bangor); Minnesota (Duluth and Minneapolis - St. Paul); and Pennsylvania (Pittsburgh and Philadelphia).

"Project GATE is a unique partnership between the Department of Labor, CareerCenters and a variety of local small business development providers, and we want to be absolutely sure that Maine people reap the ben-

efits of this project," says Stephen Duval, State Coordinator with the Maine Department of Labor's Bureau of Employment Services.

The program hopes to attract 500 entrepreneurs in the coming months. Project GATE orientations are held weekly at the Portland, Lewiston, and Bangor CareerCenters. In an effort to attract participants, several new and growing businesses and entrepreneurs in Maine will be featured in a statewide campaign. Included will be Alan Holt of the newly formed Holt and Lachman architects of Portland who have recently registered for Project GATE.

Recently, the Department of Labor selected Shoestring Creative Group, another small Maine company to handle the marketing of Project GATE. According to Duval, "We chose Shoestring Creative Group to represent Project GATE and the opportunities it presents for entrepreneurs to launch and grow new businesses because they really know how to reach Maine people."

So what does Project GATE have to offer? Many individuals have the motivation and skills to develop a small business, but lack business expertise or access to financing. Project

- continued on page 6 -

MAINE

IS FULL OF SMALL TOWNS AND BIG IDEAS,
THE PERFECT PLACE TO
START YOUR OWN BUSINESS.

Project GATE, cont.

GATE will assist these individuals by providing free business training, one-on-one business counseling, and technical assistance to apply for small business loans. The benefits of Project GATE are many.

Project GATE is a research project, which means that anyone who applies has a 50% chance of being accepted into the program. The primary objective of the project is to examine the viability and effectiveness of teaming workforce development and economic development services in the one-stop environment. In order to evaluate Project GATE, a process similar to a lottery will randomly select half of all applicants to receive Project GATE services. The lottery ensures that everyone submitting an application has an equal chance of being selected. The only eligibility requirements are that you must be at least age 18, legally able to work in the United States, and have a legal business idea. If you are not selected to receive services from Project GATE, you are still eligible to receive other services normally available in your community.

For more information about GATE project, please visit Maine's Project GATE website at: www.mainegate.org or contact:

Steve Duval
Project GATE State Coordinator
Maine Department of Labor
Bureau of Employment Services
55 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
(207) 624-6369
Stephen.Duval@maine.gov

Appleton Website – First of its Kind

By STEVE RZASA

APPLETON - Maine's Chief Information Office was a bit surprised when Appleton turned out to be the first town to sign up for a simple web address through the state site.

"We kind of expected one of the larger cities in Maine," said Mary Silva, CIO office information technology management analyst.

Appleton recently went on-line through the website www.appleton.me.gov, and now the state CIO hopes other municipalities will follow the example. Tremont, adjacent to Bar Harbor, has followed suit.

Tay Vaughan, Appleton's Emergency Management Agency coordinator and a computer software expert, created the site primarily to provide a source for municipal information as well as links to state websites. The site he is still working on includes links to town ordinances, department contacts, and information on the comprehensive plan.

Vaughan went to the board of selectmen in November to see if he could set up this site. "I thought it was important that we could have a place to disseminate that information to the town," he said.

Once he had the board's approval, he said the most logical way to set up the town's domain name was to go through the state. "If you look around, there's never been any sort of convention for naming town websites," Vaughan said.

According to the Maine Municipal Association, there are about 491 municipalities in the state.

The "*Maine.gov*" website shows that close to half of these, 221, have websites, including Camden, Rockport and Lincolnville.

Many of these use a variety of ".org" and ".com" web addresses, though the largest cities - Augusta, Bangor, Lewiston, and Waterville - all use the ".us" address. Camden, Rockport, and Lincolnville use this suffix, as do Rockland and Belfast.

Vaughan explained that the federal government controls use of the ".gov" address for websites, and each state maintains a Chief Office of Information. These agencies are responsible for the third tier subdomains of ".gov" used for municipalities - such as in Appleton's case of www.appleton.me.gov.

Silva said the state switched to the simpler "*www.maine.gov*" domain name last year, and the change has been well received. Following that change Maine's CIO talked with its counterpart in 20 other states to see how they handle municipal sites, and found that many recommended using the third tier model.

The CIO is planning a June conference with the MMA at which municipalities can learn more about having this easier town domain name. And Tay Vaughan has been invited as a guest speaker, Silva said.

Reporter Steve Rzasa can be reached at srzasa@courierpub.com. This article, which was originally published April 8, 2004, is reprinted courtesy of the Camden Herald newspaper.



Challenge

For a chance at the pizza: If MEN = 13514 and CHILD = 389124, what does WOMEN =?

For something extra to think about (but no pizza to contemplate): An experimental Navy jet from BNAS flies from Brunswick to Chicago at 1000 miles per hour. After picking up a load and flying into a headwind, he makes the return trip at 500 miles per hour. What is his average speed for the entire trip?

Please e-mail **Lester Dickey** with your answer and your name,

phone number, and the organization for which you work. Or call **Barbara Buck** at **624-9501**. The winner will be drawn from all the correct entries and will receive a **FREE** donated pizza, either from **CJ's Pizza** or from the **EDOC Cafeteria**. All answers must be in no later than the **14th** of the month.

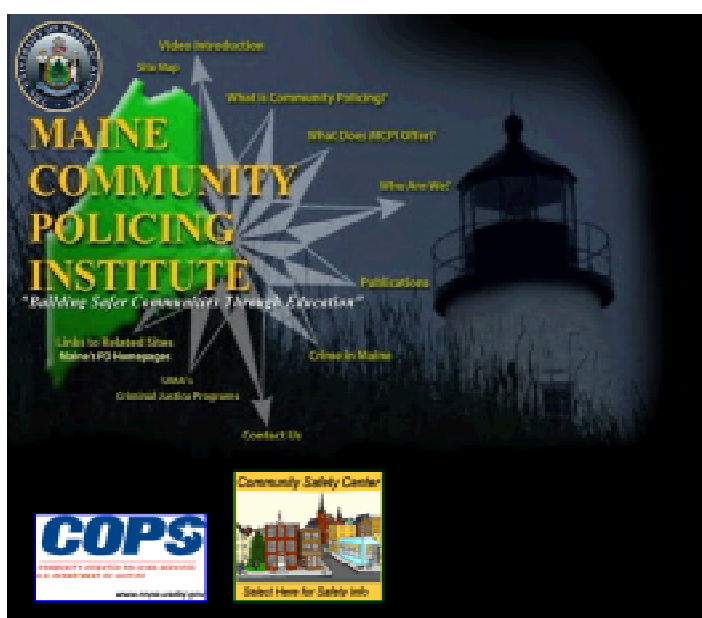
Last month's challenge brought 70 submissions, with 54 having correct answers. The winner, chosen by random drawing, is **Linda Roy** of **Department of Labor**. The answers to last month's Challenge: a) It is Tuesday, April 10. b) You call her "Sally" because that is her name.

By LESTER DICKEY

Promoting Public Safety: Using Educational Technologies to Build Safer Communities

By LAUREN A. MAYHEW MESERVIE

The Maine Community Policing Institute (MCPI) is a division of The University of Maine at Augusta (UMA). Originally funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services in 1997, MCPI has evolved into a self-sustaining organization through the support of the Maine State Legislature and the Maine Judicial Branch. The mission of MCPI is to further the practices and philosophy of community policing, with a focus on building community/public safety agency partnerships for problem solving. MCPI is positioned as a central resource for neighborhoods, communities, and law enforcement agencies in the dissemination of Community Policing information.



Community Policing is a significant part of combating crime and improving the quality of life in Maine's cities, towns, and rural areas. Core components of Community Policing include partnering with the community; problem solving; and transforming policing agencies to support and empower frontline officers, decentralize command, and encourage innovative problem solving. Today, communities across Maine, and the United States, are actively engaged in Community Policing. Community Policing, in fact, has become the dominant strategy in contemporary law enforcement.

The MCPI web site has a new and powerful resource available to citizens and law enforcement to promote the sharing of safety and crime prevention. This **Community Safety Center** is an in-depth educational portal through which visitors can view safety and crime prevention offerings. It showcases the utilization of the latest technology in terms of access to the Internet and advanced instructional material design. Topics within the Safety Center include: Community Policing, Terrorism Awareness, Elder Abuse, Financial Exploitation (of seniors), and General Crime Prevention topics such as Bicycle Safety,

Underage Drinking/Driving, and Alcohol Abuse. Interested individuals who wish to access this site can do so at <http://www.be-safe.org/me/mcpi/>.

Through engaging in problem solving partnerships, police and citizens can enhance their ability to protect the communities in which they live and work. Key benefits in Community Policing participation include a reduction in crime and fear of crime; reducing the calls for police service; increasing public confidence in and support for law enforcement; and increasing citizen participation and involvement in local problem solving.



The Community Safety Center serves to maximize positive community contact and paves the way for heightened communications between the agency and the public. With a constantly increasing use of the Internet, this new opportunity engages the community while enabling better understanding of important information.

MCPI encourages everyone to learn more about Community Policing in Maine. Working together we can achieve our motto of "Building Safer Communities Through Education". We welcome inquiries about the many services offered to police agencies, service providers, business organizations, community leaders, and the citizens of Maine.

For more information about MCPI's programs and services, and/or to be placed on our mailing list to receive our bi-monthly newsletter Community Policing Across Maine, please contact us at: Maine Community Policing Institute, University of Maine at Augusta, 46 University Drive, Augusta, ME 04330. Tel: (207) 621-3478, Fax: (207) 621-3301, E-mail: mcpi@maine.edu

How Am I Doing With The MIST?

By MARY N. CLOUTIER, EDITOR

Today the MIST – Maine IS Technology Newsletter is read on paper, and on-line by approximately 3,000 people each month. The MIST didn't just appear – it has evolved over time. Its first ancestor, the "OIS/BDP" newsletter was published in August of 1988! Back then the Office of Information Services (OIS) had a Bureau of Data Processing (BDP). That first issue had a biography section (Bill Meehan), welcomed newly hired employees (Delores Crocker and Glenda Winn) and provided information on available training courses (on Lotus 1-2-3 and Microsoft Word etc.). Today, the MIST still includes this type of news - and much more. Initially the OIS newsletter was 4 pages; over the years the MIST has doubled to 8 pages.

The focus has expanded as well. Today I try to publish a mix of technology related articles from agencies throughout Maine state government. I am also interested in publishing articles regarding county and local governments' use of technology, and their interactions with State government. The MIST editorial board also has expanded. For example, Colleen Gesualdo of Maine Department of Transportation often works with her colleagues to develop articles for publication in the MIST. Finding interesting topics is one of my greatest challenges. If you would like to contribute – as a board member, freelance reporter, or article

solicitor, please let me know. We welcome input from all state agencies today.


Lastly, I attempt to vary the articles in terms of content - e.g. narrowly focused "tech talk" articles ... to "end-user" (those expecting technology to assist them perform their jobs) articles, ... to general information articles, ... to current events articles. Which

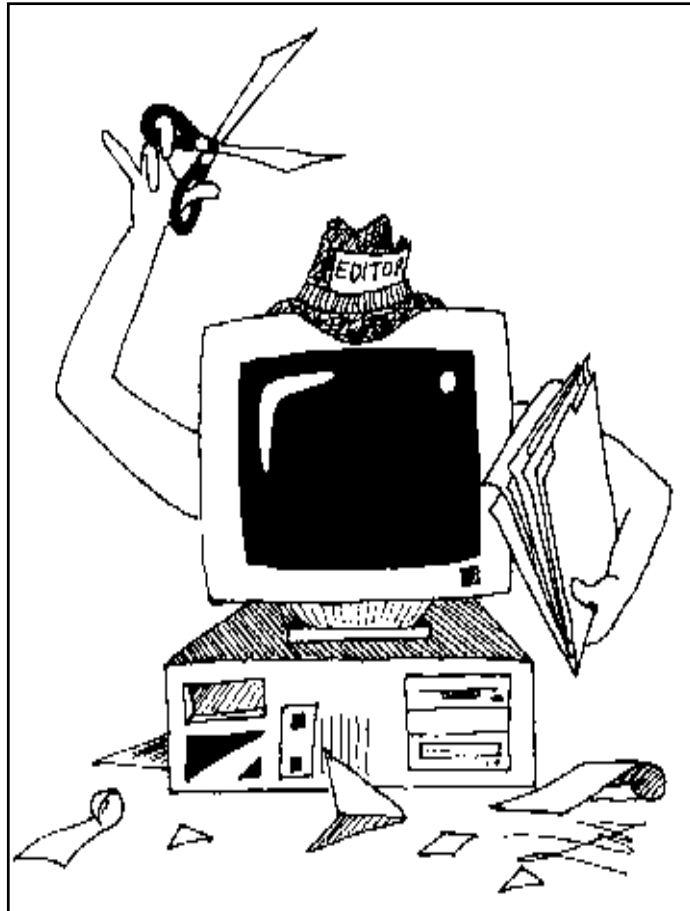
brings me to my question ... "how am I doing?"

Please take a few minutes to e-mail me (mary.cloutier@maine.gov) with your reflections on the following questions. Feel free to offer additional comments and suggestions. I appreciate your taking the time to tell me, "how I'm doing" ... and will strive to incorporate your ideas into future issues.

1. Do you read the MIST monthly, and is it informative?
2. Have MIST articles helped you with your job? If so, which articles were the most relevant?
3. Should I drop the challenge or biography as regularly appearing features?
4. Can you suggest topics for future articles and provide the name and e-mail/phone of a contact for me to follow up with?

5. Would you like to become more involved with the MIST editorial board? What role would you like to play?

I'll look forward to hearing from you soon. Thanks. 



TRANSITIONS

TECHNOLOGY PERSONNEL CHANGES IN YOUR AGENCY?

SEND NOTICES TO mary.cloutier@maine.gov TO HAVE THEM POSTED HERE.

Rob Williams, Computer Programmer in Development Services' ADAM Group, has been promoted to a Programmer Analyst position effective March 15, 2004.

Susan Banden, Systems Analyst in Development Services' ADAM Group, has accepted a Systems Team Leader position with the Department of Transportation. Susan's last day in the Bureau of Information Services was April 9, 2004.

PRINTED BY IDEAL PRINTING SERVICE, AUGUSTA, MAINE
UNDER APPROPRIATION 038-18B-1000-012

EDITORIAL BOARD

Mary N. Cloutier (BIS), Editor

Karen Knox (BIS), On-line Editor

Members:

Janey Barton (BIS)
M.D. Bowman (BIS)
David H. Ellis (BIS)
Melicent Versteeg (Maine Revenue Services)
Robert Witham (BIS)
Colleen Gesualdo (MDOT)
Jeffrey W. Cotnoir (BIS)
Susan Spinell (Maine Conservation Corps.)



Challenge:

Lester Dickey (Maine Revenue Services)

Proofreaders:

Ann Salverson-Seales (BIS)
Dale Blake (BIS)
Anji Brockmann (MEGIS)

Send your comments or suggestions to us at:
neb.newsletter@maine.gov or via our newsletter Web site on the Internet at:
<http://www.maine.gov/newsletter/index.htm>